

# **Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine**

## **Site Screen Report**

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.*

## **Mesa III Mine AUM Site**

**Navajo AUM Northern Region**

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.496.1111**

**March 2010**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status****Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 605**Map ID:** N236**CERCLIS:** NNN000908914**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** NA-0313**Local name / Aliases:** Mesa III Mine 1; Mesa 3 Mine**Chapter and local area:** Cove Chapter**County:** Apache                   **State:** Arizona**Lat/Long:** 36.5152154124 N / -109.244896097 W**Nearby road and highway:** Indian Route 33           **Local Post Office:** Cove, AZ**Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Private</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bureau of Land Mgmt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Allotment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>State</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fee land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

**Claim and operator information:**

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Kerr-McGee from 1954 to 1958, and Vanadium Corp. of America from 1963 to 1965. No other historical ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

**Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine:**

None

**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:**926 yd<sup>3</sup>

## Part II        Summary of radiological readings

### Highest gamma radiation measurement:

162,576 counts per minute (cpm)

### Describe any other radiological measurements:

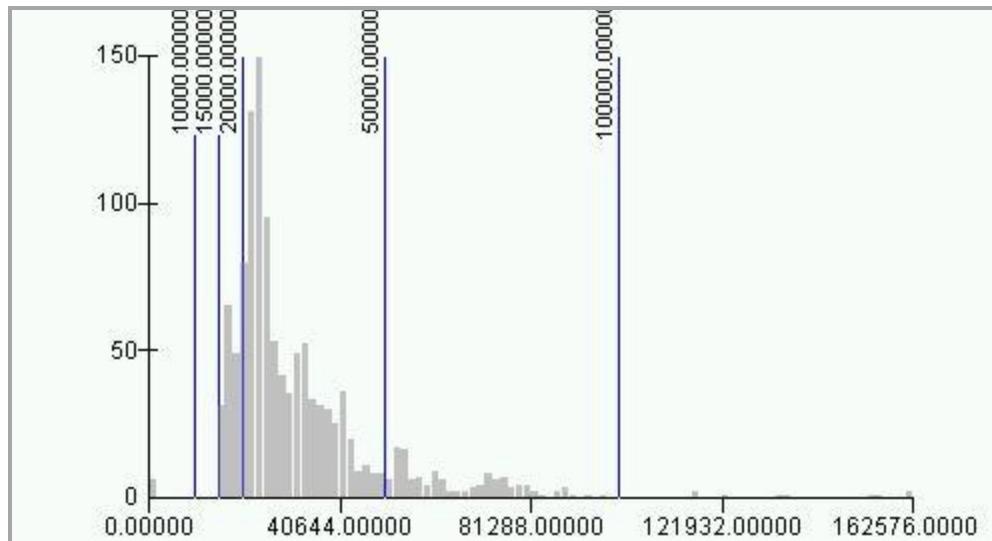
A total of 1,176 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 14,801 cpm to 162,576 cpm. Measurements in the vicinity of the waste debris were found at levels ranging from 40,000 to 140,000 cpm, the drainage through site ranging from 137,000 - to 275,000 cpm, and the adit was approximately 90,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Background Locations**  
#1 10,289 cpm

**Average background = 10,289 cpm**

### Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



Count:	1182
Minimum:	0.00000
Maximum:	162576.00000
Sum:	37804400.00000
Mean:	31983.41794
Median:	25648.50000
Standard Deviation:	17426.94285

### Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste

**The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:**

**NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : Yes      Waste Pile onsite : Yes**

**NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0313**

**NAMLRP Mine features: 1 Portal, 1 Prospect**

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**The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2009 site screening:**

**Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.**

**Observed reclamation work and status:**

**Adits**

9' high x 10' wide adit, drainage below adit

**Waste Piles**

Large waste pile at the southeast end of site 100' x 50', with a total estimated volume of 926 yd<sup>3</sup>

**Pits**

None

**Shafts**

None

**Other Debris and Mine Features**

Drainage from adit runs through site and adjoining Mesa II ½, Mine 4 site, drainage was followed until the slope became impassible.

## Part IV

### Site observations and Environs

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** An unoccupied house was located at the top of the mesa, approximately 0.18 miles west of the site

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

All gamma radiation measurements collected in the vicinity of the house were less than 11,000 cpm

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** Surface water draining from adit

**0.25 miles to 4 miles:** None

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.**

Mesa III Mine consists of an area of 4,398.32 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was identified as being operational from 1954 to 1965. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Kerr-McGee from 1954 to 1958, and Vanadium Corp. of America from 1963 to 1965. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 50,900 tons. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

## **Part V              Response Action Summary**

**Site Name(s):** Mesa III Mine        **Chapter:** Cove

### **Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** Yes

**At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located?** 0.18 mi

**At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources?** None

**Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site?** Yes

**Is the cap/seal functionally intact?** Yes

**Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases?** No

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located?** 0.18 mi

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source?** None

### **Summary of emergency response factors**

None

### **Summary hazard ranking system factors**

None

### **Summary of reclamation factors**

Unreclaimed waste rock and sealed adit onsite. The drainage running through the site had some running water, and starts at the. Drainage was followed until the slope became impassible, elevated readings were found throughout the drainage.

## Part VI      Photos



Photo 1. Mine site



Photo 2. Mine site and waste pile in distance



Photo 3. Mine site above adit

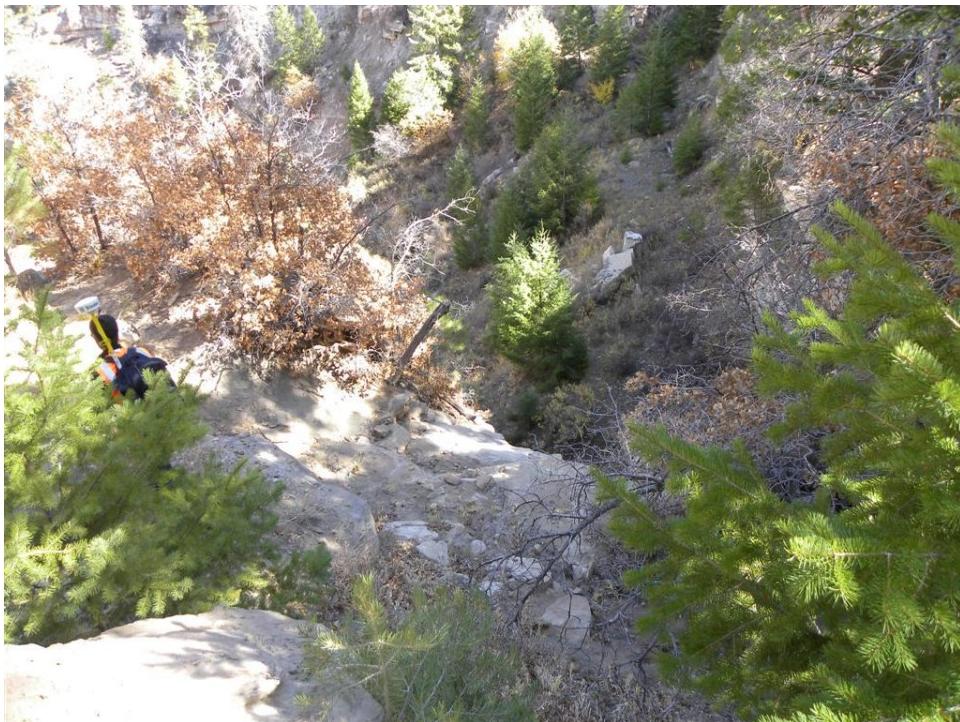


Photo 4. Mine site above adit



Photo 5. Waste rock



Photo 6. Waste pile



Photo 7. Sealed dit

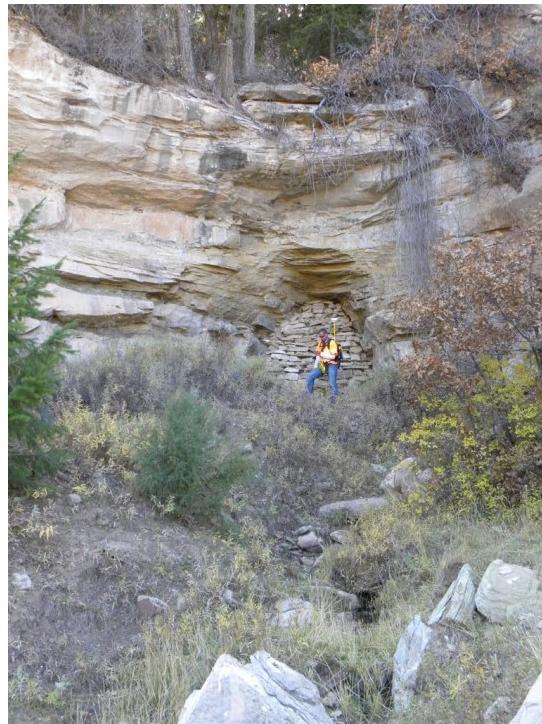


Photo 8. Sealed adit and drainage



Photo 9. House 0.18 miles west of site



Photo 10. Inside unoccupied house

**Part VII      Contacts Reports and Information**Name: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund ProgramAddress PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

Information provided\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

Information provided\_\_\_\_\_

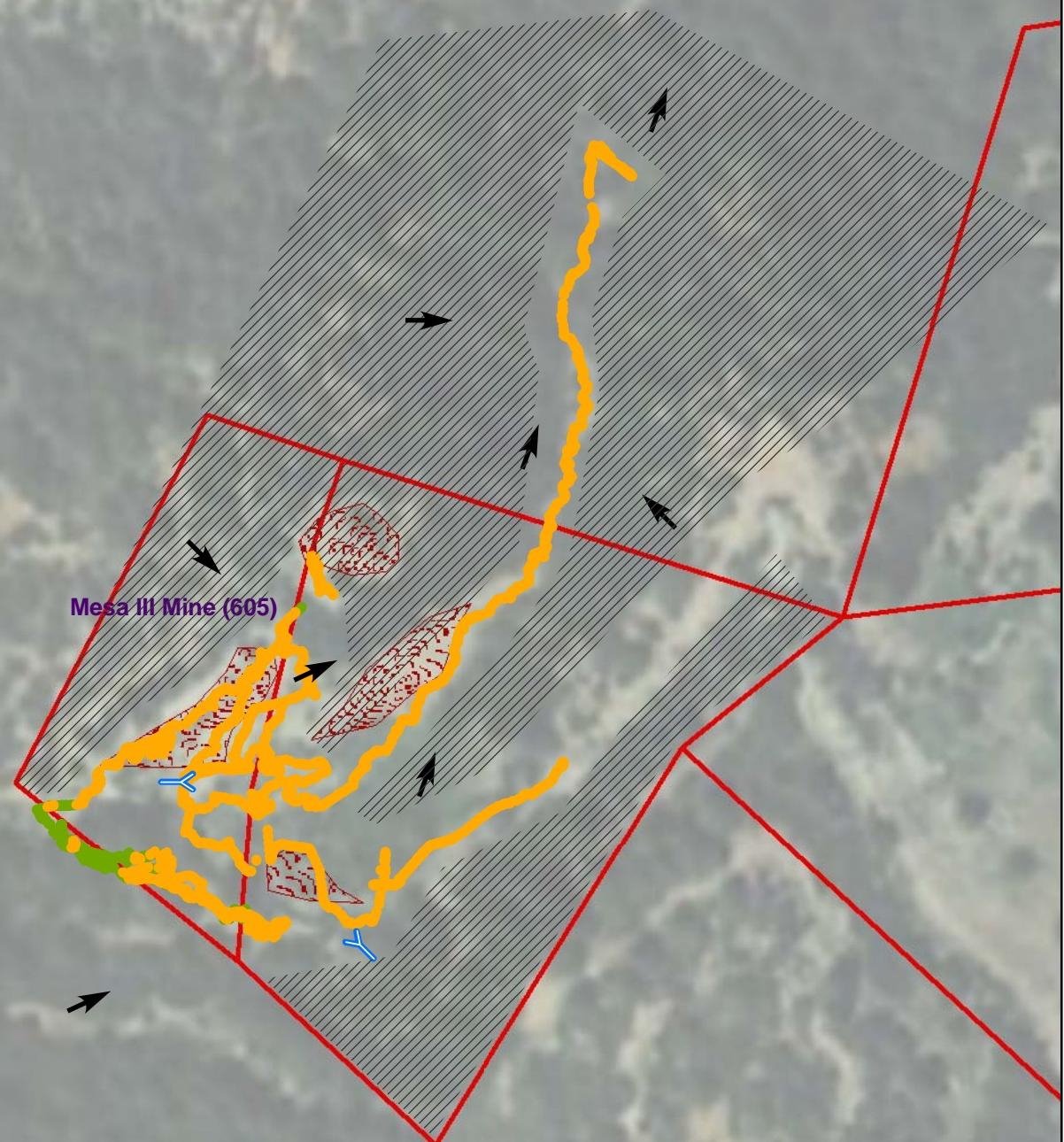
Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

Information provided\_\_\_\_\_

**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background**  
**Mesa III Mine (605)**  
**Cove Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



Note: This map includes a portion of the data collected from the screening of adjacent site Mesa II 1/2 Mine 4 (604). The drainage stream leading from onsite adit passes directly through site 604.

### Legend

#### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

Gamma survey conducted 10/2009  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 10,289 cpm

- Observed Adit
- Observed Waste Pile
- ▨ Inaccessible due to steep grades
- General Direction Down-Slope
- ◻ Mine Claim Boundaries

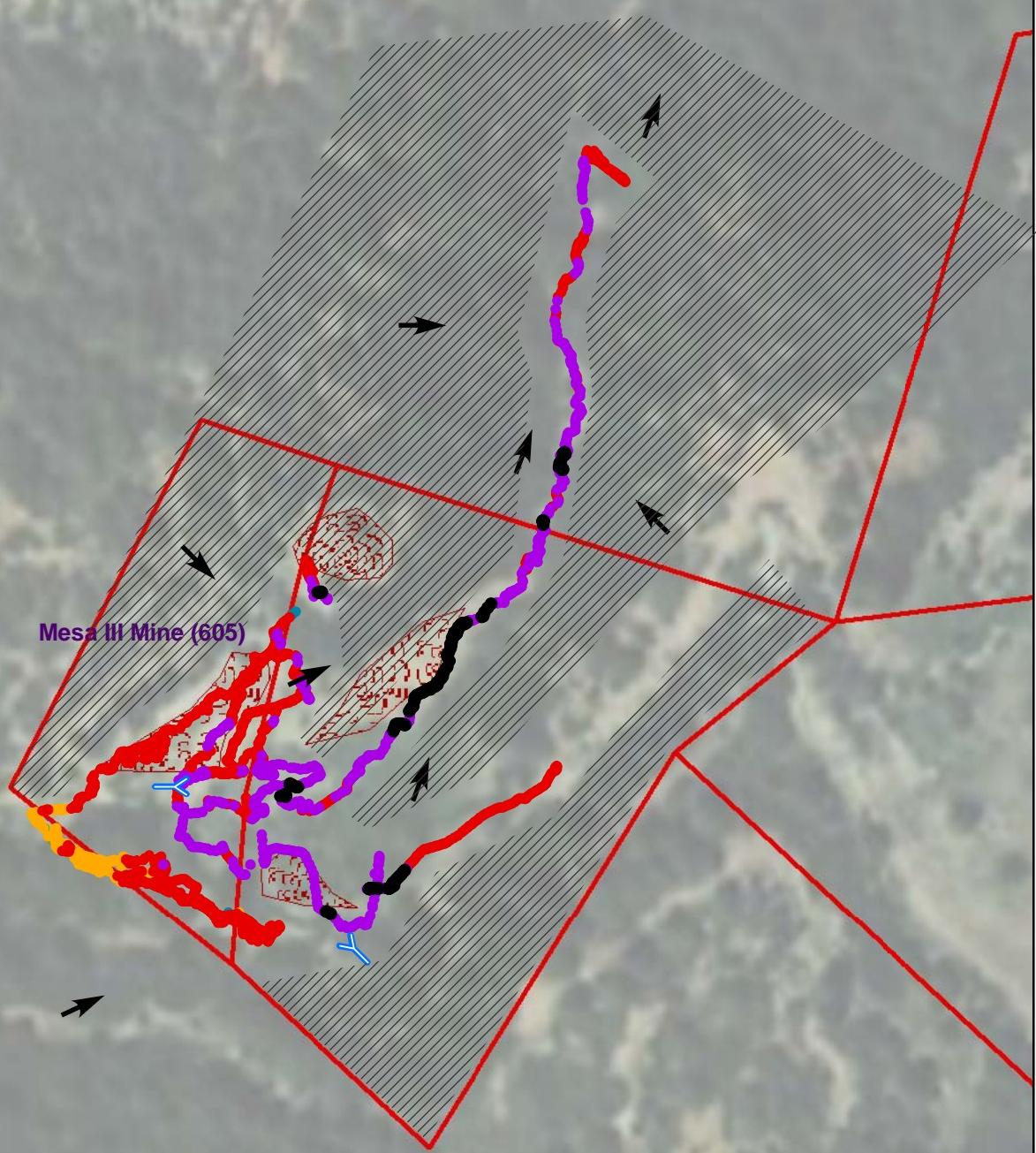


0 150 Feet



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**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements**  
**Mesa III Mine (605)**  
**Cove Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



Note: This map includes a portion of the data collected from the screening of adjacent site Mesa II 1/2 Mine 4 (604).  
The drainage stream leading from onsite adit passes directly through site 604.

#### Legend

##### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000

- Observed Adit
- ▣ Observed Waste Pile
- ▨ Inaccessible due to steep grades
- General Direction Down-Slope
- Mine Claim Boundaries
- Gamma survey conducted 10/2009  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 10,289 cpm



0 150 Feet



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